

From: [Glenn, William](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Rollins, Christopher](#); [Alkon, Margaret](#); [Noggle, William](#)
Subject: RE: Discussion re: FOIA request EPA-R9-2014-001383
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 6:02:40 PM

Dear Mr. Ottman,

We do not record clarifying conversations with FOIA requesters. At this point, we agree with you that a conversation would not be less burdensome.

You made the following information request:

-- Copies of records used by Region IX to determine that the ex-USCGC STORIS was PCB-free, allowing the vessel to be exported from the MARAD Suisun Bay National Defense Reserve Fleet on the evening of October 25, 2013 for scrapping in Ensenada, Mexico.

This information request incorrectly assumes that export of the vessel occurred as a result of a determination by EPA Region IX.

However, we believe that you wish to obtain copies of records possessed by Region IX regarding whether the ex-USCGC STORIS was PCB-free at the time of export.

Thus, we are asking you to clarify the scope and content of the information that you are seeking because we believe that it would be more responsive to clarify the third bullet of your request to read:

“Copies of records possessed by Region IX regarding the existence of PCBs on the ex-USCGC STORIS when it was exported from the MARAD Suisun Bay National Defense Reserve Fleet on the evening of October 25, 2013 for scrapping in Ensenada, Mexico.”

We also wanted to update you on logistics and timeframes. Because you assured payment of any costs associated with your request, we have continued work on the request while you await a decision on your appeal of the fee waiver denial. We are also in the process of compiling a cost estimate for the document search, which we will share with you. At this point, we estimate that the response to your request will be available via FOIAOnline by Feb. 7.

Please respond to this email to acknowledge that the clarification of the third bullet of your request is in line with the information you are seeking. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Glenn
Chief, Environmental Information
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA, Pacific Southwest
glenn.william@epa.gov / (415) 947-4254

From: Jon A. Ottman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 2:41 PM
To: Noggle, William; Glenn, William
Cc: Rollins, Christopher; Alkon, Margaret
Subject: Re: Discussion re: FOIA request EPA-R9-2014-001383
Importance: High

Good afternoon -

In reviewing the original FOIA request, I don't see where the descriptions of the various requested materials are unclear.

I am working to get others from our group involved in a call if you still believe it is necessary to do so. This will necessitate having this discussion after 5 p.m. EST -- probably closer to 6 p.m. -- so that I can make sure that they are available after their day jobs.

If possible, it may be more expedient for you to provide to me a list of questions or requested clarifications in advance to either answer straight out in writing or to at least prepare for a discussion.

If there is to be a conference call, I would like to request in advance that the conference be recorded and a copy provided. I would also like a list of those who will be participating in the call, both in active participation and passive observation roles.

At this point, my Wednesday schedule has been moved to Thursday, so late Wednesday or Friday afternoon may be available for a discussion should you so desire. Otherwise, as I said, I can provide clarification in writing if you choose to submit specific questions or clarifications.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jon A Ottman

On 1/12/2014 6:56 PM, Jon A. Ottman wrote:

Mr Noggle and Mr Glenn -

I wanted to acknowledge receiving your messages on Friday. I am currently working through a couple of other projects at the moment. At this point, the first three days of the week are booked. I will coordinate with Region IX in the next couple days to set up a time to discuss the request for clarification on my submitted FOIA regarding the former CGC STORIS.

Thank you.

Jon A Ottman